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① Ex Affairs ② Air Office



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 19, 1999

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Mr. Charles Clarke  
Administrator, Region 10  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

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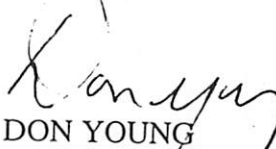
Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am writing in regard to a permit the State of Alaska is about to issue for Cominco Alaska's Red Dog Mine expansion.

It has come to my attention that EPA Region 10 sent a letter to the State threatening the issuance of an enforcement order which would prevent the State from issuing this permit. This action is apparently based on EPA's belief that the permit is improper, and that EPA has the authority to enjoin the permit. State officials have assured me the permit is protective of the environment. EPA's action, which will reportedly be taken without the opportunity for a public hearing, is puzzling given that the State has legitimate authority over this matter, and has accordingly decided that a permit for Red Dog's mine is appropriate and in accordance with the law. If EPA moves ahead with its action against the State, it could prevent the construction of a major project important to well-being of Northwest Alaska, where the economy is heavily dependent on these types of projects.

I find it hard to believe that a Seattle, Washington-based office of EPA can monitor air quality issues and permitting requirements as effectively as State officials in one of the most remote regions of Alaska. I urge EPA not to undermine the State's authority to issue this permit.

Sincerely,

  
DON YOUNG  
Congressman for all Alaska

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